

Disaster Action Guidelines

for Dog and Cat
Owners



*In the event of a natural or man-made disaster pets are **not allowed** inside emergency shelters for humans due to public health and safety reasons. If it is necessary to evacuate your family to a public shelter during a disaster, you must have planned in advance for the care of your dog and cat. Such planning could save your pet's life and make yours easier.*

Plan Ahead Before a Disaster Occurs:

➡ Acquire a steel or fiberglass **pet carrier** (portable kennel) or crate for each pet. Carriers should be large enough for the pet to stand up and turn around.

➡ **Familiarize** your pet with the carrier.

➡ Be sure you pet's **vaccinations and medical records** are written and up-to-date. Most boarding facilities require proof of current rabies and distemper vaccinations. Also, have documentation of any medicines with dosing instructions and name and phone number of the veterinarian who dispensed the drugs.

➡ Be sure your pet wears a properly fitted **collar** with a current license tag, rabies tag and **identification tag** containing your name, animal's name, address and phone number. Also, provide an alternate identification tag with the name, address and phone number of a relative in a different area who could be contacted if you cannot. Consider permanent identification of your pet with a national registry using either a tattoo or microchip implant.

➡ Acquire a **leash** to have on hand to maintain control of your pet.

➡ Survey your home and determine the **best location** away from windows if possible to place your pet during an emergency -- utility room, bathroom, kitchen or other tiled area which can be cleaned easily.

➡ Decide on **where you might take your pet** if it becomes necessary during an emergency to leave your home. Places you could contact are:

TBoarding kennels

TVeterinary hospitals with boarding facilities

TFriends or relatives

TMotels where you can stay if they will take pets

➡ Acquire non-spill water and food **bowls**.

☞ Consult your **veterinarian** on what to do if your pet is on a special diet or needs motion sickness or other medications.

☞ Stock up on **pet food** (dry type that is relatively unpalatable to prevent overeating) and kitty litter for emergency use.

☞ Stock up on newspapers, plastic bags, cleanser and disinfectants to properly handle pet wastes.



At the Time of the Disaster:

☞ Listen to the emergency broadcasting station on your portable radio for information about how to locate **pet care providers** offering services during the disaster.

☞ If you plan to leave your home and must **leave your pet behind**, remember.

- T Bring your pet **indoors**. Do not leave your pet tied up outside.
- T Prepare and clean the preselected site in the house.
- T Leave only **dry type foods**. Use sturdy food containers.
- T Do **not** leave any treat type vitamins or mineral supplements. Overeating of these may cause poisoning if too much is consumed.
- T **Water** for pets should be left in bathtubs or other sturdy spill proof containers. Leave toilet seats up. Flush toilet before leaving.
- T **Never** leave a cat with a dog even if the two are normally friendly:
- T Keep small pets such as birds, hamsters away from dogs and cats.
- T Put difficult or dangerous animals in large, sturdy **crates or cages** to reduce the possibility of them getting loose.

☞ Take your pet's immunizations and health **records** with you because records kept at home may be damaged during the disaster.

☞ If you must **evacuate your home** and plan to take your pet to a boarding facility, motel or relative or friend's house, take all of the items you have acquired before the disaster including food, non-spill food and water containers, medications and your pet's vaccination and health records.



Planning Ahead Could Save Your Pet's Life

After the Disaster:

☞ Be careful allowing your pet outdoors after the disaster. Familiar scents and landmarks may be altered and your pet could easily be confused and become lost. Downed power lines and raccoons, skunks or other wild animals that may have entered the area could present real dangers to your pet.

☞ If your pet is lost during the disaster, contact veterinary hospitals, boarding kennels, animal control facilities and humane societies in your area. Also call the **national lost pet hotline** 1-900-535-1515 to report your loss. (This is a charge call.)

☞ If you find a pet, contact your local humane society, any phone numbers that may have been set up during the disaster to report lost and found animals, or the **national found pet hotline** 1-800-755-8111.

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